

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



May 4, 2020 – Mr. Brooke

Good morning, afternoon, or evening, WCGS! As we move into the month of May, we want to talk about the word, perseverance. I hope you enjoy!



Read: Gal. 6:9, Heb. 1:23-24; Ps. 136; Jer. 29:11; 2 Thes. 3:3

Topic: Perseverance

Whenever we go for a walk, run, or bike ride at our house, we have a circular route we typically follow. We pass similar houses and wave at familiar people. One of the things about our “loop” is that the first part of the journey is slightly downhill. I love the downhill! I can usually coast on my bike or move a little faster than normal if I am running. But the challenge with downhills is that there is almost always an uphill that follows. Every time we follow our “loop,” we finish slightly uphill. If I am honest, I do not like the uphill journey as much. And unfortunately, we as people, sometimes have the same attitude when life feels slightly uphill. Uphill moments in life are a bit more challenging moments when we are given a situation we might not have asked for or wanted.

I am so thankful that God’s Word addresses these uphill moments and calls out the best in us. Even though it is hard, God calls us to be people who persevere rather than crumble. He calls us to move through opposition despite the challenge or hardship. As God teaches us about this word throughout the week, I think these two ideas from Scripture can encourage us. Highlight, cut out, or focus on one of the two and keep it in mind throughout the day.

1. **Persevere in doing what is good:** In Galatians 6:9, Paul challenges the church in Galatia to persevere in doing what is good. Paul does not say, do what is right when it is easy, or do what is right only when everyone is watching. He calls all of us to persevere to do what is right, no matter the situation. I am praying that our community strives to persevere in doing good when we feel like we are coasting downhill or climbing a mountain!

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

2. **Persevere in knowing what is true:** In Hebrews 10:23-24 (our Year Verse), we are called to hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. God calls us to know what he has promised rather than what the world tells us. In seasons of uphill living, we must hold onto the promises of our Father...promises such as:
 - a. **Psalm 136:** We are told 26 times, His loves endures forever.
 - b. **Jeremiah 29:11:** We are told that God has great plans for us, plans to prosper.
 - c. **2 Thessalonians 3:3:** We are told that the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect. Let’s persevere in knowing what is true as it will fill us with life!

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

One of the things that always helps me when I climb the hill, is to climb it with other people. Despite being separated physically during this season, let's be sure to encourage one another to persevere in **doing what is good** and **knowing what is true**. I am convinced that our community can be leaders in this type of living. Let's be a group of students, families, faculty, and staff that presses on in loving others and obeying our King. And in addition, let's be people who pursue the truth of Scripture in the good days and the hard. Our world is in need of good and truth. Let's be a group of people who points people to the One who provides both—the King of Kings, who has a remarkable plan for us amidst the downhill and uphill moments of life.



Activity:

Identify which of these two concepts is important for you to focus on today or this week. Highlight, cut out, or simply re-read the section to help you keep it in mind.



Prayer:

Lord, make us people who persevere in doing what is good and knowing what is true. Help us to be people who persevere in the downhill and uphill moments of life.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



May 5, 2020 – Mr. Burgess



Read: 2 Corinthians 4

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

Mrs. Burgess has been on what Mr. Brooke called an “uphill journey” recently! She went to a church Ladies Retreat in Lake Geneva. I was a little mystified that she felt she needed to go on a retreat. (What was she retreating from? I was the only other person at home!) On SA, February 22, she was hosting a dinner table and got up to get tea for a new arrival. She promptly tripped over the leg of a chair, into a second chair, and landed on her right arm. A trip to the ER of a hospital revealed a broken humerus bone (nothing humorous). The fracture was actually in the top of that bone (the ball that goes into the shoulder socket). The decision was made NOT to amputate, but to put her in a pillow/sling for 8 weeks.

Mr. Clum drove me to WI to pick her up, and we arrived home at midnight. Janet promptly asked me to take out her earrings! I don’t do earrings! I’ve never put in or taken out earrings. That night the process seemed to take 10 minutes; I didn’t want to break her ear or tear off the lobe! Thank God He gave her only two ears! As it turned out, her earrings were the least of my problems!

Thus the daily assistance—helping her get dressed and undressed—began. (I wasn’t any good on her hair either!) Arriving home after a day’s work meant preparing dinner, initially feeding her, cleaning up the kitchen. Of course, she wasn’t helping much with the laundry or vacuuming. We had two snowstorms, and she didn’t do a very good job of clearing the snow off my driveway! I had to go out and actually do it myself! Oh, is this starting to sound like MY uphill journey? 😊

Her journey? She was in intense pain. Sleeping on her back wasn’t very comfortable. Sleepless nights, getting up during the night. Pain medication. Frustration at being home by herself and not being able to do much while I was at school, unable to drive, struggling to use her **left** hand, not being able to play the piano for *The Wizard of Oz* (which was later cancelled). Being dependent upon others. It’s been 10 weeks now. Physical therapy for her frozen shoulder. Why does it have to hurt so much? So many things are out of her control!

Maybe you’re thinking that a broken arm just doesn’t sound that bad. You just lost your job, or have been dealing with cancer, or just lost a parent to COVID-19 (and you couldn’t be with your loved one in the hospital as he/she was leaving this earth)! Everything is relative, but there’s plenty of bad to go around!

We cannot quit! WE must persevere! After listing his uphill journeys (verses 7-8), the Apostle Paul reminds us of Jesus’ resurrection. We will be raised one day to be present with our Lord Jesus! THEREFORE, we do not lose heart! God is renewing us day by day!

Paul calls our earthly troubles light and momentary! Many times they don’t feel light and momentary! In fact, sometimes these troubles can paralyze us! Yet look at Paul’s advice: “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (vs. 18). We need to fix

our eyes on Jesus...and on Heaven! “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

PERSEVERE! Keep moving! Janet is still going to her painful PT appointments. It’s too soon to quit. Keep your eyes on the eternal, on what’s above, on Jesus!



Activity 1:

What are some things on your “light and momentary troubles” list today? What will you do to set your mind on things above, to focus your gaze on Jesus?

Activity 2:

Read the words to *Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment* (see below), or sing along with [*Blessings* \(Laura Story\)](#).



Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thanks for the reminder today to look at life through Your eyes. Help me to keep my focus on eternity and on Jesus. Thank You for being with me and for helping me through the challenges of life on earth. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

FOOTNOTES

Through Janet’s “uphill journey,” we thank the Lord for the kindness and encouragement of many of you in our school community. Janet is thankful for the thoughtful cards and flowers she received, and I am thankful for the Sunshine Committee and the **meals** they provided! 😊

DAY BY DAY

Day by day and with each passing moment, strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father’s wise bestowment, I’ve no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure gives unto each day what He deems best—
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure, mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day the Lord Himself is near me with a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me, He whose name is Counselor and Pow’r.
The protection of His child and treasure is a charge that on Himself He laid;
“As your days, your strength shall be in measure,” this the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in every tribulation so to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith’s sweet consolation offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting, e’er to take, as from a father’s hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting, till I reach the promised land.

—Carolina Sandell Berg, 1865 (Civil War)

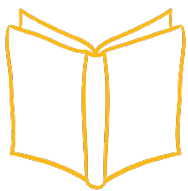
DAILY DEVOTIONAL



May 6, 2020 – Mr. Clum

Good morning, WCGS! Thinking of all of you this morning as we seek to live victoriously during these challenging days. As we begin our day, I want to encourage you to “set your hearts on things above” (Colossians 3:1). I’m so thankful that the Lord loves us so much and is watching out for us during these days. Give Him thanks today for His continual presence in your life. I love you guys. Have the best day in the Lord!

Perseverance—Run with Endurance the Race God Has Set before Us



Read: Hebrews 12:1-3; Gal. 6:9

Key Verses: Hebrews 12:1b,2a

As we’ve been reminded by our devotionals this week, the word perseverance means “persistence (sticking with it) in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success” (Google Dictionary). Perhaps it involves learning a specific skill that you are trying to master and not achieving success. Maybe it involves understanding a math problem. You’ve worked hard and long, but the answer is still incorrect. **Can you think of a time where you needed to be persistent in working through a situation?** Share that with someone in your family. When one perseveres, one sticks with it and pushes through to the end.

I ran cross-country all four years of high school. CC is a sport where you train by running lots of miles, sprints, and intervals so that on race day you will have the endurance to run your best. One of the reasons I ran CC was because I wanted to build up endurance so that I could push through (persevere) in my races. But it was also valuable to me as I prepared for basketball season and what was required on the court when I was tired and needed to dig deep. Training hard gave me not only a physical edge, but a mental edge as well, so that I could persevere in spite of how my body felt.

In Hebrews 12:1b, the author encourages us “to run with endurance/perseverance the race marked out for us.” **What is that race? And how do we run it with endurance/perseverance?** Talk about these two questions with the members of your family. Did you determine that the race is the Christian life? I’ve heard it said that the Christian life is not a sprint, but a marathon. A marathon (26.2 miles) is not a short race that is completed quickly. We live each day so that we can get to know our Heavenly Father better. In order to persevere in the Christian life, we need to keep our eyes on Jesus. He must be our focus despite our circumstances. This reminds me of Peter walking on the water as he sees Jesus. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he was fine. But what happened when he lost focus of Jesus? You are right; he began to sink. We run this race called life better by keeping our eyes focused on Jesus.

I don’t know about you, but I’ll assume that each of you never thought that we would finish the 2019-20 school year using an e-Learning format. Your teachers didn’t for that matter either. I was looking forward to seeing you students each day in school, enjoying the many end-of-the-year activities, and bringing normal closure to the school year on May 29. COVID-19 changed everything! And as we press on in May, we need to ask ourselves this question. How are we going to “run with endurance the race that is set before us?” None of us would probably have chosen to finish the school year this way. Yes, there have been some very good things that have come out of this pandemic. Quantity and quality of time with family are great ones. Time for

reflection and allowing God to speak to us. Time to slow down from the frantic pace of life. And I could name many more.

As we finish the month of May, we have been presented with a choice as to how we run and finish the school year. Yes, it will take perseverance as we push on with e-Learning. As I consider how to finish, I'm reminded of the following:

- God has called me to be faithful in all things. I plan to press on because He who has called me is faithful (Heb. 10:23).
- God has called me to encourage and love people no matter the circumstances of life. I choose to make the most of our current situation by seeking ways to speak life into those at WCGS and my sphere of influence (Prov. 3:27).
- I am called to look beyond myself and my circumstances. Yes, e-Learning has created many new challenges for me as Head of School. I choose to work with the incredible team God has put together at WCGS to help our students and parents experience success during this process.
- I also realize that I'm better able to do life and press on when I'm keeping my eyes focused on Jesus Christ.

I'm not sure what your challenge is today as you run the race. But I do know that our God is able to give us all that we need to persevere and finish well. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).



Activity 1:

Have you experienced a challenging situation this school year in which you have needed to persevere? Or maybe there is one that is coming your way. What is it? Share it with your family...and share how you have or will persevere.



Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You have called us to run the race of life with perseverance. It is so easy to get down and discouraged sometimes because of our circumstances. We need You in our lives. Help us to look up – and see You. Help us to know that You will give us the strength to persevere no matter what! Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



May 7, 2020 – Mr. Burgess
National Day of Prayer
Perseverance



Read: Luke 11:1-13
Key Verses: Luke 11:5-8

We had a Fathers' Prayer meeting scheduled for this morning at 7:00 a.m. No one showed up! 😊 However, hopefully there will be many praises and requests that will ascend to God's throne today!

Has God ever answered any of your prayers? Have you ever written out your prayers? Do you go back and write in God's answers to your prayers?

How does this week's theme, PERSEVERANCE, relate to prayer? We need to be persistent in prayer! Most often our prayers are not answered immediately, not answered on the first round! If things are important to us, if they are important to God, they are worth our persevering in prayer.

In our reading, a man goes to his neighbor's house and knocks on his door at MIDNIGHT because he needs bread! The man inside answers that he's tired and doesn't want to get up to unlock the door to give him bread. Yet because the man keeps knocking, the neighbor gives his friend bread so his friend will stop making noise so he can get back to sleep! The friend persevered and kept knocking until his request was answered.

George Muller (1805 Germany—1898 Bristol, England) was a man of prayer. He kept track of all his prayers and *when* God answered them. He estimated that God had answered over 50,000 of his prayers, many thousands of which were answered on the day he made them and often before he arose from his knees! Amazing! However, some of his petitions stretched across decades.

In November 1844, he began to pray for the conversion of 5 individuals. Whether sick or in health, he prayed every day without a single missed day. Eighteen months elapsed before the first of the five was converted. He thanked God and kept praying for the other four individuals. Five years elapsed, and then the second was converted. Six years passed before the third was converted. I'm not sure the last two ever came to know the Lord. However, he persisted; he persevered; he prayed **every day** for over 12 years and longer!

Mr. Muller: "Most frequently we fail in *not continuing in prayer* until the blessing is obtained and in not expecting the blessing!" His victories came through prayer, trust in the Lord's unfailing promises, and faith that God's truth could not fail.

"Many and great may be the difficulties. Thousands and tens of thousands of prayers may have to ascend to God before the full answer is obtained; **much exercise of faith and patience may be required**; but in the end it will again be seen that His servant, who trusted in Him, has not been confounded."

He also said, "The greater the difficulties, the easier for faith. The greater the trial, the sweeter the victory!"

Hear the Word of the Lord:

- "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" (Col. 4:2).
- About Epaphras Paul writes, "He is always **wrestling** in prayer for you" (Col. 4:12).

PERSEVERE! Keep praying! Don't give up! It's too soon to quit!

National Day of Prayer: <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/prayforamerica>

They are asking us to pray for our country in 7 areas: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family. You can go online and get more information.



Activity 1:

You can pray about the other areas, but I would like to ask you to pray for and with your families today. Whether there are 10 in your family or 2 in your family, please spend some time praying **together**. I'll list some ways you can pray for families from the NDoP website, but please spend time praying for *your family in particular*, your joys and praises, your relationships, your challenges, and needs. **Students, pray for your parents!**

FAMILY

"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." (Mark 3:25)

Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13)

The re-establishment of relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6)

A return to family values that serve the nation as a whole (Job 22:21-22)

A return to the biblical mandate to train their children at home in the fear of the Lord and not leave the responsibility to others (Proverbs 22:6)



Prayer:

Father God, thank You for creating our families. We know all families have challenges and issues to work on. Help each of us in our families to be humble, to be quick to ask forgiveness, and to love and show respect to each other. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



May 8, 2020 – Mr. Brooke
Perseverance



Read: Matthew 6:9-13

I remember sitting in church during elementary school and reciting the Lord's Prayer in "big church." If I am honest, I did not fully understand some of the phrases but have since been fascinated by the clarity of this prayer. In Matthew chapter 6, as Jesus delivers the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus articulates how we should pray. He provides a guide as many often ask what we should pray about on a regular basis. He states the following verses which He calls you and me to pray.

⁹ *"This, then, is how you should pray:*

*"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.
¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus invites us to persevere in prayer. He identifies the important things to pray and certainly does not suggest praying just once. This is a prayer that God calls us into throughout our entire lives. As He calls us to persevere in these areas of prayer, the following are **beyond important**.

1. Worship God in our prayer lives and tell Him how great He is.
2. Invite Him to be on the throne of our lives and to do His will with us.
3. Ask God to provide for us...*today*.
4. Seek God for forgiveness in the areas we fall short and ask for strength to forgive others.
5. Plead with God to keep us from evil so that we may be obedient to Him as King.

Jesus calls us to come before Him each day to build our relationship with Him through prayer. I would invite all of us to consider praying the powerful parts of the Lord's Prayer as we move through the month of May. I imagine God will use our prayers in powerful ways to end our school year well.

I am so thankful that we serve a God who asks us to meet with Him. He hears all our prayers but also provides a guide. His love and relationship with us should be a great encouragement to our entire community. **May we be people who persevere in prayer!**



Activity:

1. Spend some time writing out the Lord's Prayer. This can be done in a creative or simple way to help you focus on the words Jesus provides in Matthew 6.
2. Highlight one of the five parts of the prayer that you would like to be sure becomes a part of your prayer life.



Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer.